



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

The Division of Fishery Industries of the Fish and Wildlife Service will be renamed Division of Commercial Fisheries effective July 1, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Service announced today.

The new name more adequately reflects the work of the Division, which is entirely devoted to commercial fishing interests. A. W. Anderson remains as chief of the division and no organizational changes during the war are contemplated, Dr. Gabrielson declared.

Much of the work of the Commercial Fisheries Division is now concerned with the war due to the importance of fishery products in the war food program and in industry.

"The Division will actively continue work on its present wartime projects", Dr. Gabrielson said, "but it will also begin to study more closely the problems which the fishing industry will most likely face in the post-war period. The fishing industry has been deeply affected by the war and it is probably that its operations will be no less deeply affected by peace. Since the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries will disappear shortly after the war is over, the Commercial Fisheries Division will be the only agency devoted exclusively to servicing the billion dollar fishing industry. We hope to develop and intensify the work of this Division so that it will be able to give the fishing industry prompt and accurate statistics, sound technical advice, and assistance on many problems in the production, processing, and marketing of fishery products."

The change in name will be the fourth for the Division of Commercial Fisheries. When the Commission of Fish and Fisheries was established by Congress in 1871, the unit which handled statistics and methods was known as the Division of Fisheries. In 1890 it became the Division of Statistics and Methods and in 1921 the name was changed again to the Division of Fishery Industries.

The scope of the division's work has constantly widened. From a unit largely organized to gather statistics, it has today become a far-flung organization with technological laboratories in College Park, Maryland, Seattle, Washington, Ketchikan, Alaska, and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as well as market news service offices in Boston, Massachusetts; New York, N. Y.; New Orleans, Louisiana; Jacksonville, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; and Seattle, Washington, and statistical field stations in San Pedro, California, and Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Present chief of the division is Andrew W. Anderson who took over the office in 1943. His predecessors have been R. H. Fiedler (1928-1943), Oscar E. Sette (1923-1927), Harden Taylor (1922), Lewis Radcliffe (1917-1921) Alvin B. Alexander (1903-1916), Barton W. Evermann (1902-1903), Hugh M. Smith (1890-1897) and J. W. Collins (1888-1890).

The Commercial Fisheries Division now has five sections: Technological, J. M. Lemon, chief; Economics and Cooperative Marketing, Dr. Richard T. Kahn, chief; Fishery Statistical, E. A. Power, chief; Fishery Market News, W. H. Dumont, chief; and Consumers, (vacant).